

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 IO-13 DHA-02 EB-07 ACDA-07

OES-06 COME-00 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 AGR-05 ITC-01 /131 W
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P R 241100Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5203

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 3501

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR FR UK

SUBJECT: GEISEL VISITS TO FRANCE AND UK

BEGIN GDS:

SUMMARY: AS PRESIDENT ERNESTO GEISEL PREPARES TO DEPART ON TWO-STAGE VISIT TO FRANCE AND UK, BRAZILIAN PRESS IS CLIMAXING WHAT HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY DAILY COVERAGE EXTENDING BACK FOR WEEKS. PROMINENT THEMES HAVE BEEN PRIDE AT THIS EVIDENCE OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF BRAZIL'S INCREASING IMPORTANCE, AWARENESS OF STATUS OF PARIS AND LONDON AS CULTURAL/POLITICAL CAPITALS, UNEASINESS OVER POSSIBILITY OF PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS HARMING SOUGHT-FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE, AND IDEA THAT THROUGH VISITS BRAZIL IS STRENGTHENING POSSIBLE "OTHER OPTIONS" WITHIN WESTERN WORLD AT PRESUMED DETRIMENT TO CLOSENESS OF US-BRZILIAN TIES. END SUMMARY.

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1. WHILE THERE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LITTLE COMMENT TO EFFECT

THAT VISITS COULD ALSO ENHANCE GEISEL'S PERSONAL PRESTIGE AND THEREBY ASSIST HIS EFFORTS TO BOOST ELECTORAL PROSPECTS OF GOVERNMENT ARENA PARTY, HIS ONLY PUBLIC STATEMENT ON TRIP NOTED BRAZIL'S "DEBT" TO TWO COUNTRIES FOR VISITS HERE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH AND PRESIDENT DEGAULLE, SAID IT WAS NOT MUCH IN HIS STYLE TO VISIT OTHER COUNTRIES, AND DECLARED, "BUT WE NEED TO SHOW, OUT THERE, THE OTHER IMAGE OF BRAZIL, WHICH IS DIFFERENT FROM THE IMAGE CORRUPTED AND DISTORTED THROUGH THE INFLUENCE OF SPURIOUS IDEOLOGIES."

2. AWARENESS OF BRAZIL'S POOR INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AS MILITARY DICTATORSHIP WITH RECORD OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS HAS BEEN PERCEPTIBLE IN PRESS COVERAGE. OPPOSITION TO VISITS EXPRESSED BY BRITISH LABORITES AND FRENCH SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS WAS DULY REPORTED HERE, WHILE OFFICIAL SOURCES SOUGHT TO DOWNPLAY SIGNIFICANCE AND EMPHASIZE DESIRE OF HOST GOVERNMENTS THAT VISITS TAKE PLACE SUCCESSFULLY. BRAZILIAN PRESS HAS IN FACT SEEMED ALMOST OBSESSED WITH POSSIBILITY OF PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS, WORRYING OUT LOUD ABOUT THEM EVEN WHILE SEEKING TO MINIMIZE THEIR SIGNIFICANCE AS LIKELY FRUIT OF EFFORTS OF HANDFUL OF EXILED LEFTIST EXTREMISTS: ONE COMMENTATOR SPOKE SIMPLY OF "BAD BRAZILIANS."

3. IN KEEPING BOTH WITH IDEA THAT NATIONAL PRIDE IS ON THE LINE AND WITH TRADITION THAT DOMESTIC DIFFERENCES ARE NOT AIRED ABROAD, PRESS AND POLITICAL CIRCLES HAVE BEEN BROADLY SUPPORTIVE OF TRIP. FOR OPPOSITION MDB, SITUATION IS NOT EASY: APPARENTLY SEEKING TO ENSURE THAT PARTY WOULD NOT BE BLAMED IN ANY WAY FOR PROTEST ABROAD, CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AND SENATE MINORITY LEADERS INDICATED--OR AT LEAST WERE CITED AS INDICATING--THAT MDB WOULD ISSUE FORMAL NOTE OF SUPPORT FOR TRIP AS BEING IN INTEREST OF ENTIRE NATION. PARTY SUBSEQUENTLY SHOWED SIGNS OF BACKTRACKING FROM POSITION THAT APPEARED TO SOME AS SUBSERVIENT, BUT AT SAME TIME FAILURE (OR REFUSAL) TO ISSUE EXPECTED NOTE MIGHT HAVE LOOKED CHURLISH AND POSSIBLY OFFENSIVE. RESULT WAS BRIEF AND SOMEWHAT EVASIVE NOTE WHICH NOTED UNANIMOUS CONGRESSIONAL VOTE AUTHORIZING TRIP, REITERATED RECOGNITION OF IDEA THAT "THE PRESIDENT ABROAD REPRESENTS THE WHOLE NATION," PROMISED THAT MDB WOULD EVALUATE ANY CONVENTIONS OR

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TREATIES RESULTING FROM VISITS, AND OVSERVED POINTEDLY THAT "GREATER CLOSENESS AND UNDERSTANDING WITH DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES, TRUE STANDARDS OF CIVILIZATION, WILL SURELY RESULT IN BENEFIT FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT."

4. FOREIGN MINISTRY LINE AS SHOWN IN PRESS STORIES HAS EMPHASIZED WHAT ONE MINISTRY-SOURCED REPORT CALLED "EIMINENTLY POLITICAL CHARACTER" OF VISITS, WHILE NOTING ALSO POTENTIAL

ECONOMIC BENEFITS. ACCORDING TO THIS PITCH, BRAZIL'S SIZE, PRODUCTION OF FOOD AND RAW MATERIALS, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH MAKE IT AN ATTRACTIVE--INDEED, ONE ACCOUNT SAID "IDEAL"--PARTNER FOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, WHICH ARE PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO BRAZIL ON THE POLITICAL PLANE AS WELL IN RECOGNITION OF ITS GROWING IMPORTANCE. THUS, LINE CONTINUES, BRAZIL IS SEEING STRENGTHENED ITS "OTHER OPTIONS" WITHIN THE WEST, A DEVELOPMENT TO WHICH US WILL HAVE TO PAY DUE REGARD. BRAZILIANS UNDOUBTEDLY WILL CLAIM THAT NEW ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION ARISING OUT OF GEISEL'S VISITS REPRESENTS EXERCISE OF "OTHER OPTIONS."

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRASILIA 3501

5. (SEPTTEL WILL FOLLOW ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL TOPICS FOR GEISEL VISIT TO UK.) THE MAJOR TANGIBLE RESULTS OF THE VISIT ARE EXPECTED TO COME IN THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL FIELDS. THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HAS SAID THAT GEISEL AND GISCARD WOULD SIGN A "FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT" WHICH WOULD DEFINE AREAS OF BILATERAL COOPERATION. THE REPORTS ADD

THAT DETAILS OF THE PROJECTS ENCOMPASSED IN THE AGREEMENT STILL NEED TO BE WORKED OUT. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS AND EMBASSY SOURCES, AREAS OF COOPERATION UNDER CONSIDERATION INCLUDE: (A) A FRENCH-LED, 1.8 BILLION DOLLAR FINANCING PACKAGE FOR THREE DAMS AND HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECTS (TUCURUI, XINGO, ITAPARICA), (B) BRAZILIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE ARIANE PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY FOR ROCKETS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES, (C) A JOINT VENTURE IN URANIUM PROSPECTION IN BRAZIL, AND (D) PERHAPS OTHER AGREEMENTS INVOLVING FRENCH/BRAZILIAN JOINT VENTURES (E.G., MINERALS, CHEMICALS, AND PETROCHEMICALS, ARMAMENTS AND RELATED

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EQUIPMENT, AGRICULTURE). REGARDING THE PROJECT AREAS LISTED UNDER (B) - (D), ONE PRESS REPORT CLAIMS THE FRENCH ARE WILLING TO COOPERATE--ALL THAT IS NEEDED NOW IS BRAZILIAN "POLITICAL WILL" TO COOPERATE.

6. OTHER ECONOMIC ISSUES MAY ARISE. THE GOF PROBABLY WILL RAISE THE ISSUE OF BRAZIL'S EXTRAORDINARY TARIFF RESTRICTIONS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SAUVAGNARGUES, DURING HIS VISIT TO BRAZIL EARLIER THIS YEAR, PRESENTED GENERAL IDEAS ON AN ALTERNATIVE (TO THE GERMAN-BRAZILIAN) URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY. END GDS. BEGIN XGDS-1. A SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA (PAMPREIA) RECENTLY CLAIMED PRIVATELY THAT NOTHING WOULD COME OF THIS IDEA. THE SUBJECT MIGHT, HOWEVER, BE RAISED DURING GEISEL'S VISIT. LAMPREIA ALSO SAID THAT THE TIME IS NOT RIPE FOR A SOLAR ENERGY AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE, BUT WE BELIEVE THIS ISSUE WILL BE DISCUSSED. END XGDS-1. BEGIN GDS. PRESS REPORTS APPARENTLY BACKGROUNDED BY GOB AGRICULTURAL OFFICIALS SAY THAT GEISEL WILL SEEK WITH THE FRENCH TO PREVENT NEW EC BARRIERS TO BRAZILIAN AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS. WE ASSUME THIS DISCUSSION WILL INCLUDE MEAT AND THE NONFAT DRIED MILK REGULATION. UNDOUBTEDLY GEISEL WILL EMPHASIZE THE DESIRE FOR MORE FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND LENDING TO BRAZIL. GEISEL MIGHT MAKE A PITCH ON THE LOME CONVENTION (I.E., BRAZIL'S EXCLUSION), BUT BRAZIL IS NOT AS WORRIED ABOUT THIS AS IT ONCE WAS. THE SUBJECT OF FRENCH PURCHASES OF BRAZILIN SOYBEANS MIGHT ARISE.

COMMENT: BRAZIL IS OF COURSE LOOKING FOR EXPANDED EXPORTS, AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY IS ALSO A RECURRING THEME TO WHICH GOB ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE, PARTLY AS KEY TO BREAKING OUT OF "DEPENDENT" STATUS AND REACHING RANKS OF DEVELOPED POWERS. IN SIMILAR VEIN, ESTABLISHMENT DURING SILVEIRA'S 1975 VISITS OF CONSULTATIVE MECHANISMS WITH FRANCE AND UK IS SEEN AS HELPING TO RATIFY BRAZIL'S STATUS AS COUNTRY WORTHY OF SERIOUS ATTENTION, IF NOT YET FULL-FLEDGED MEMBER OF CLUB. "OTHER OPTIONS" IDEA, FIRST

FLOATED BY FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION,
HAS COME TO FIGURE REPEATEDLY IN HIS PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS.
MOST RECENTLY HE HAS SOFTENED IMPLICATION THAT SUCH OPTIONS
WOULD BE EXERCISED AT US EXPENSE, OR AT LEAST AT
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SOME COST TO US-BRAZILIAN TIES, BUT NOTION PERSISTS HERE
THAT US VIEWS WITH CONCERN BRAZIL'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS
RELATIONS WITH OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. AT LEAST SOME
NEWSPAPERS HAVE INTERPRETED BOTH FAVORABLE US DECISION ON
SHOES (ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE TO US INDUSTRY RATHER THAN
QUOTAS OR HIGHER TARIFFS) AND RECENT US-BRAZIL TEXTILE
AGREEMENT AS EVIDENCE OF US ANXIETY TO COUNTERACT GROWING
BRAZILIAN TIES WITH EUROPE. END COMMENT.
JOHNSON

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